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ISRAEL-LEBANON
Talking Points for the DDCI
(as of 1000 EDT, 19 August 1982)

Military Situation

Beirut is generally quiet today, although the Israelis claim that the PLO violated the cease-fire in Beirut several times last night. They also reported violations in eastern Lebanon. [REDACTED]

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Political Situation

The Israeli cabinet today approved the plan submitted by Ambassador Habib, clearing the way for the departure of PLO forces to begin this weekend. The Lebanese Foreign Minister today issued formal requests to Italy and France to provide troops for the Multinational force which will oversee the PLO withdrawal. A similar request will be forwarded to the US later today.

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The Lebanese parliament, scheduled to convene today to elect a new president, has postponed its session until Monday.

- The delay comes as a result of Muslim threats to boycott the session and is apparently designed to give the Muslims time to agree on a candidate. The Muslims are opposed to Bashir Jumayyil, the leading Christian candidate, who they see as too close to Israel. [REDACTED]

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PLO Residual Forces

The departure of the PLO from Beirut will leave a sizeable Palestinian military and refugee presence in other parts of Lebanon. Palestinian fighters, outside of Beirut, are concentrated mainly in the Tripoli area and in the Bekaa Valley.

- There are approximately 1,000 PLO combatants in Tripoli. This includes representatives from all the PLO fedayeen groups. Fatah, Saiqa, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine seem to have the largest forces.
- Their command headquarters reportedly is located in the Al Badawi refugee camp north of Tripoli. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

We have little information on the breakdown of these groups, but the forces in general consist of:

- Fatah "regulars," including elements of its Karameh Brigade and the pro-Fatah Palestine Liberation Army.
- Militia units from Fatah and other PLO groups.
- Offices of all the PLO groups. Saiqa's headquarters for its northern forces, for example, is presumably still located in Tripoli.
- Fatah's small "naval" force is also headquartered in Tripoli. It consists of motorized rubber dingies and home-made speed boats. [REDACTED]

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There are at least 5,000-7,000 Palestinian fighters located in the Bekaa Valley and with Syrian forces along the Beirut-Damascus road in the mountains east of Beirut. [REDACTED]

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